

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 COPENH 02598 01 OF 02 181736Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
ACDA-12 IO-14 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-15
CEQ-01 /143 W

-----061901 181940Z /43

P 181648Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6374

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY EHLSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 COPENHAGEN 2598

39 11652: NA

TAGS: MNUC NPG NATO DA

SUBJ: DANISH PRIME MINISTER DEFENDS PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION
ON THE "NEUTRON BOMB"

1. TODAY'S (APRIL 18) AKTUELST, THE DAILY NEWSPAPER OF THE GOVERN-
ING SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, FEATURED A PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED PIECE
WRITTEN BY PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN. HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 COPENH 02598 01 OF 02 181736Z

THE PAPER'S EDITORS TO EXPAND ON REMARKS HE HAD MADE RECENTLY AT
A MEETING OF THE COPENHAGEN CITY SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY GROUP
WHEN HE ADDRESSED ARMS POLICY IN GENERAL AND THE "NEUTRON BOMB"
IN PARTICULAR. IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT JORGENSEN'S
ARTICLE WAS TIMED TO APPEAR AT THE BEGINNING OF THE APRIL 18-19
NPG MEETING IN FREDERIKSHAVN.

2. IN SUMMARY, JORGENSEN ARGUES THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS WISE TO DEFER A DECISION ON THE PRODUCTION OF THE ERW AND THAT HE (JORGENSEN) SEES NO REASON WHY THE PRESIDENT'S ACTION SHOULD BE INTERPRETED AS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS. AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE FULL TEXT OF THE JORGENSEN ARTICLE IS SET OUT BELOW:

BEGIN TEXT. THE ARMS RACE HAUNTS THE WORLD. IN RECENT YEARS PUBLIC ATTENTION HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON NUCLEAR ARMS AND RECENTLY, SPECIFICALLY ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON. IT HAS, OF COURSE, ALL ALONG BEEN A DANISH INTEREST TO REDUCE ARMAMENTS EXPENDITURES FIRST AND FOREMOST BECAUSE OF THE DANGER OF WAR WHICH THEY IMPLY, BUT ALSO BECAUSE THESE RESOURCES COULD BE USED FOR BETTER PURPOSES. BUT THE ARMS RACE CONTINUES. NEITHER OF THE GREAT POWERS WISHES TO GIVE IN AND BECOME A VIGOROUS LEADER IN ARMAMENT.

LATELY THE QUESTION HAS BEEN WHETHER THE US SHOULD START PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON. AT THIS TIME THE US IS PROBABLY THE ONLY NATION CAPABLE OF PRODUCING IT ON SHORT NOTICE.

THE BACKGROUND FOR THIS QUESTION IS PUBLIC REVELATION THAT THE MILITARY BALANCE OF POWER, INSOFFAR AS CONVENTIONAL ARMS ARE CONCERNED, HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY WEAKENED TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF THE WEST. THE SOVIET UNION IS RATHER SUPERIOR IN SEVERAL FIELDS, ESPECIALLY AS FAR AS TANKS ARE CONCERNED. MILITARY EXPERTS ESTIMATE THAT, THE NEUTRON BOMB, BECAUSE OF ITS SPECIAL EFFECTIVENESS AGAINST TANKS, WOULD HELP RESTORE THE MILITARY

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 COPENH 02598 01 OF 02 181736Z

BALANCE OF POWER, ESPECIALLY IN EUROPE.

FROM A PURELY MILITARY POINT OF VIEW THIS REASONING CANNOT BE REJECTED, BUT IT IS NEVERTHELESS, UNBEARABLE TO THINK THAT THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD MUST CONTINUOUSLY SEEK TO OUTDO EACH OTHER IN THE PRODUCTION OF STILL MORE MODERN MEANS OF DESTRUCTION.

WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS THE GREAT POWERS, THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES, WHICH ARE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT. BUT IT IS WRONG TO FOCUS ONLY ON THE NEUTRON WEAPON. THERE IS NO GOOD REASON TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN TWO FORMS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THESE WEAPONS ARE THE WORK OF THE DEVIL. BOTH TYPES OF ARMS WILL, IF USED, HAVE TERRIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR MANKIND. ALL OUR EFFORTS MUST BE DEVOTED TO SLOWING DOWN, CUTTING DOWN, OR TOTALLY ABANDONING THE PRODUCTION OF THESE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.

NOR IS IT REASONABLE TO DISCUSS ONLY ATOM AND NEUTRON WEAPONS. IT ALL MUST BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS AND OF THE BALANCE OF POWER AS A WHOLE.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 COPENH 02598 02 OF 02 181935Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
ACDA-12 IO-14 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-15
CEQ-01 /143 W
-----063722 181940Z /43

P 181648Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6375
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 COPENHAGEN 2598

THESE ARE VIEWS WHICH I CLEARLY STRESSED TO MINISTER-PRESIDENT
KOSYGIN DURING THE MEETING IN WHICH I, AMONG OTHERS, PARTICIPATED
IN DECEMBER 1977 IN HELSINKI.

WHEN PRESIDENT BREZHNEV, ON JANUARY 5, 1978, SENT A LETTER TO
THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ONE TO
ME, I EXPRESSED A SIMILAR VIEW IN MY RESPONSE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 COPENH 02598 02 OF 02 181935Z

WHETHER OR NOT TO PRODUCE THE NEUTRON WEAPON IS, IN ITS VERY

NATURE, AN AMERICAN DECISION. THE US HOWEVER, FOUND IT APPROPRIATE TO CONSULT WITH THE OTHER NATO COUNTRIES ON THE POSSIBLE DEPLOYMENT OF THIS WEAPON IN EUROPE.

DURING THESE CONSULTATIONS IN NATO, WE FOUND IT IMPORTANT TO POINT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF POSTPONING THE PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON, WITH A VIEW TOWARD ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

SAID IN ANOTHER WAY. A DECISION OUGHT NOT BE MADE ONLY ON THE BASIS OF THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS WEAPON, BUT JUST AS MUCH ON AN EVALUATION OF THE EFFECT IT COULD HAVE ON DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT.

AS HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED IN THE FOLKETING AS WELL, DENMARK WAS AMONG THE FIRST COUNTRIES TO CALL ATTENTION TO THIS RELATIONSHIP.

BUT IN THIS WHOLE DEBATE IT SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT IT HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO STATIONING OF NUCLEAR ARMS ON DANISH SOIL IN PEACETIME. THIS VIEW HAS BEEN SHARE BY SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS.

K. B. ANDERSEN, LISE OSTERGAARD AND I HAVE ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS EMPHASIZED THAT THIS POLICY ALSO APPLIES TO THE NEUTRON WEAPON. WE HAVE SAID IT AT HOME, IN NATO AND TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND TO PRESIDENT BREZHNEV.

WE HAVE, OF COURSE, FOLLOWED DEVELOPMENTS VERY CAREFULLY, INCLUDING THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT ON WHETHER OR NOT TO BEGIN PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 COPENH 02598 02 OF 02 181935Z

REGARDLESS OF THE MILITARY EVALUATION OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON, IT IS TO A GREAT EXTENT ALSO A QUESTION OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT ON THE PUBLIC, WHICH MIGHT SEE IT AS A FURTHER ESCALATION FOR WHICH THE AMERICANS WOULD BE BLAMED, REGARDLESS OF THE REAL REASONS BEHIND THE DECISION AND THE EXISTING MILITARY BALANCE OF FORCES. THESE HAVE, WITHOUT DOUBT BEEN DIFFICULT DELIBERATIONS FOR THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION, BUT I WELCOME THE DECISION PRESIDENT CARTER HAS MADE. IT IS A WISE DECISION TO POSTPONE THE ISSUE AND GIVE COMMON SENSE AND GOODWILL ANOTHER CHANCE.

IT WILL GIVE RISE TO MANY ALLEGATIONS THAT NOW THE DOVES HAVE WON OVER THE HAWKS, AND THAT THIS IN ITSELF CONSTITUTES A RISK FOR WORLD PEACE.

I FEEL CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE WEST

TO STRESS AGAIN AND AGAIN OUR WILL TO REDUCE ARMAMENTS. IT ALSO PLACES A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ON THE SOVIET UNION AND THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES DURING THE DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ARE TO TAKE PLACE.

CONCERN THAT THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS IS, IN MY OPINION, UNJUSTIFIED. WE MUST SHOW THROUGH OUR POSITIONS AND NOT ONLY IN WORDS THAT WE REALLY WANT PEACE, AND THAT WE ARE EVEN READY TO RUN A CERTAIN RISK.

THIS PLACES A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY ON THE COUNTRIES OF THE EAST. THEY MUST SHOW GREATER OPENNESS AND MORE WILL TO STEP DOWN MILITARY ACTIVITY IN ALL AREAS. END TEXT.
DEAN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, POLICIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978COPENH02598
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780166-0365
Format: TEL
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780446/aaaabnab.tel
Line Count: 238
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 999d07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2937322
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DANISH PRIME MINISTER DEFENDS PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION ON THE "NEUTRON BOMB"
TAGS: MNUC, DA, US, NPG, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/999d07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014